(d) Action taken to reduce presence of population in the park include:

(i) check posts have been established.

(ii) entry of people in the park is regulated under section 27 of the Wildlife (Protection), Act 1972.

(iii) eco-development scheme is under operation to reduce the dependence of people on forest usufructs.

Forest Cover in Eastern Ghats

1722. SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps are proposed to improve the forest cover in the Eastern Ghats of Visakhapatnam and Vizianagaram districts of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether any proposal for aerial seeding has been considered; and

(c) what specific proposals have been drawn up to ensure impetus to afforestation in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Andhra Pradesh has adopted Joint Forest Management (JFM) approach to manage and protect the forests with peoples' participation. In Visakhapatnam and Vizianagaram districts, about 1102 Vana Samrakshana Samithis have been established and entrusted with an area of 1,44,040 hectares of degraded forests for improving/gap filling through plantation etc. In Visakhapatnam district, Centrally Sponsored River Vally Project Scheme is under implementation to arrest soil erosion and improve forest cover. Planting of non-timber forest produce species is also being promoted. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Association of Scheduled Tribes and Rural Poor for Regeneration of Degraded Forests on Usufruct Sharing Basis is also being implemented for development of degraded forests.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) A massive afforestation scheme for planting 6 to 7 crore seedings has been launched by the Government of Andhra Pradesh to

take up afforestation of wastelands, community lands, and in reserve forest areas under the Clean and Green programme.

Environmental changes due to cyclone in Orissa

1723. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some disturbing changes have been predicted by the wildlife experts and Environmentalists for Orissa, due to super cyclone in that State;

(b) if so, what are the changes predicted by them; and

(c) the details of measures adopted to save human beings for the changes due to ecological imbalances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Some reports predicting that the recent super cyclone in Orissa may contribute to global warming and climate change adversely have appeared in the media. These reports also mention that some of the endangered species may have also been adversely effected by the super cyclone.

(c) Measures contemplated to ameliorate the predicted changes are:

(i) re-establishment of coastal shelter belt plantation over 18000 hectare;

(ii) restoration and rehabilitation of mangrove ecosystem over 18000 hectare;

(iii) raising avenue plantation over 1500 km along roads;

(iv) re-stocking of 25000 hectare of forest blocks.

Protection of Forests and wildlife

1724. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what measures have been taken by Government to save the forests and the wild animals from destruction;

(b) whether Government have any check on the cutting of forest trees in Adivasi districts of Maharashtra, which have put the forest